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English 30

Part A: Written Response

Grade 12 Diploma Examination

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January 1996

English 30 Part A: Written Response

Grade 12 Diploma Examination

Description

Part A: Written Response contributes 50% of the total English 30 Diploma Examination mark and consists of **two** assignments:

- **Reader's Response to Literature Assignment**

Suggested time
approximately 1/2 hour

Value
30% of the Part A mark

... Page 2

- **Literature Composition Assignment**

Suggested time
approximately 1 1/2 to 2 hours

Value
70% of the Part A mark

... Page 10

Time: 2 1/2 hours. You may take an additional 1/2 hour to complete the examination.

Instructions

- Read the **whole** examination before you begin to write.
- Follow instructions carefully.
- Complete **both** assignments.
- Space is provided in this booklet for planning and drafting and for your revised work. Please write your revised work in blue or black ink.
- You may use the following references:
 - a print or electronic dictionary (English language and/or translation)
 - a thesaurus
 - an authorized writing handbook
- Budget your time carefully; the suggested time for each part is a guideline for you.
- Do not write your name anywhere in this booklet.

Instructions

1. Read “Horses” carefully and thoughtfully before you start the writing assignments.
2. Read **both** assignments before you start writing.

HORSES

It was from a window I first saw the horses.

It was winter in Berlin: a light
with no light, a sky without sky.

The air white as a loaf of wet bread.

And there, by the window, bitten off
by the teeth of the winter, a deserted arena.

Then, all of a sudden, ten horses
led by a man, moved into the snow.

Their passing left hardly a ripple, like fire,
but they filled a whole universe
void to my eyes, until then. Ablaze
with perfection, they moved like ten gods, colossal
and grand in the hoof, with dreamy and elegant manes.

Their rumps were like planets or oranges.

Their color was honey and amber and fire.

Their necks were like pillars
carved in the stone of their arrogance,
and out of vehement eyes their energy
glared from within like a prisoner.

There, in the silence of midday
in a soiled and slovenly winter
the horses' intensity was rhythm
the blood, the importunate¹ treasure of being.

¹importunate—insistent

Continued

I looked—looked till my whole force reawakened.
This was the innocent fountain, the dance in the gold,
the sky, the fire still alive in the beautiful.

I've forgotten the wintry gloom of Berlin.

I will never forget the light of the horses.

Pablo Neruda (1904–1973)
Chilean poet and diplomat who
won the Nobel Prize for Literature 1971

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment
(Suggested time: approximately 1/2 hour)

The poem “Horses” conveys the impact of a simple experience that made a profound and lasting impression on the speaker.

What does the poem convey to you about the effect of simple but significant experiences in people's lives? Refer to specific detail from the poem to support your response.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

There is additional space for Planning and Drafting on pages 6 and 8.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

REVISED WORK

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no text or other markings on the paper.

There is additional space for Revised Work on pages 7 and 9.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

There is additional space for Planning and Drafting on page 8.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

REVISED WORK

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

There is additional space for Revised Work on page 9.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

REVISED WORK

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Literature Composition Assignment

(Suggested time: approximately 1 1/2 to 2 hours)

Some experiences are of particular significance in our lives. Literature offers many examples of the ways in which a particular experience has significant impact on an individual's life. One such example is developed in the poem "Horses."

Write an essay based on other literature that you have studied in which the author examines the effect or impact of significant experience on an individual's life. **What idea does the author develop regarding the impact of significant experience?** Develop your essay by providing specific supporting details from the literature that you have chosen.

Guidelines for Writing

- **Choose** your selection from relevant short stories, novels, plays, poems, other literature, or films that you have studied in your high school English classes. You must discuss literature **other than** the poem provided in this examination booklet.
- **Focus** your essay on your controlling idea regarding the impact of significant experience upon individuals. Markers will be looking for evidence that you are responding to the requirements of this assignment as you develop and support your controlling idea.
- **Organize** your composition so that your ideas are clearly and coherently developed.

Literature Composition Assignment

INITIAL PLANNING

Space is provided here for your initial planning. No marks are awarded for work done on this page.

Author and title
of literature that
you have chosen

Your controlling idea
or thesis statement

There is additional space for Planning and Drafting on even-numbered pages.

Literature Composition Assignment

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

WORK

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-numbered pages.

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

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Literature Composition Assignment

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

WORK

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Literature Composition Assignment

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

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Literature Composition Assignment

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

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Literature Composition Assignment

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

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Literature Composition Assignment

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

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Literature Composition Assignment

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

WORK

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Literature Composition Assignment

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

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Literature Composition Assignment

PLANNING AND DRAFTING

Literature Composition Assignment

REVISED WORK

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines, typical of notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Credit

Pablo Neruda. "Horses" from *Pablo Neruda Five Decades: A Selection (Poems: 1925–1970)*, translated by Ben Belitt. (New York: Grove Press, Inc.) Reprinted by permission of Grove Press, Inc.

***Do Not Write
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January 1996

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